

As TRICARE Management Activity's Information Management (IM) Division and the Military Health System (MHS) continue International Classification of Diseases, 10<sup>th</sup> Revision (ICD-10) preparations, it was discovered that decimal points play an important part in telling some ICD-9 codes apart from ICD-10 codes.

## Identical ICD-9 and ICD-10 Codes with Different Meanings

It came to the attention of MHS Stakeholders that there are issues with the International Classification of Diseases, 10<sup>th</sup> Revision, Clinical Modifications (ICD-10-CM) that requires education and awareness by coders, clinicians and data analyzers in order to avoid codes being misinterpreted.

There are 39 E-codes in the ICD-10-CM code set that are referred to as "cross contaminated". Without the decimal point these codes are identical in ICD-9 and ICD-10; however, the clinical meanings are completely different.

From an analytical standpoint, it is important to know the difference because some MHS reporting systems do not provide the option for using decimals. These codes may easily be misunderstood if the placement or use of the decimal is not considered. For example, the ICD-9 diagnosis code, **E802.9**, is used to define an external injury while the ICD-10 diagnosis code, **E80.29**, is in relation to a metabolic disease.

MHS Subject Matter Experts are assessing the centrally-managed systems to identify which systems do not use decimals.

## Upcoming Events!!

**January 30 – February 2, 2012**

**Military Health System Conference, National Harbor, MD**

<http://www.health.mil/2012mhsconference.aspx>

**February 14 – 16, 2012**

**WEDI Winter Forum, Fairfax, VA**

<http://www.wedi.org/forms/meeting/MeetingFormPublic/view?id=1B7520000039B>

**March 7 – 9, 2012**

**AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM/PCS: Building Expert Trainers in Diagnosis and Procedure Coding, Seattle, WA**

<http://www.ahima.org/Events/EventCalendar/Event.aspx?id=c35219bd-4af1-4a87-a77a-fe3f31770575>

**April 16 – 17, 2012**

**ICD-10 AHIMA Summit, Baltimore, MD**

<http://www.ahima.org/Events/EventCalendar/Event.aspx?id=af543dab-591b-4df2-ae86-eea81d7f908c>

Note that the above ICD-10 related links are provided as informational resources only and do not constitute an endorsement of any non-Government site or entity.

In the ICD-9-CM coding system, for "E codes" the decimal is placed after the fourth character. In the ICD-10-CM coding system, the decimal is placed after the third character. The top ten encounters coded with ICD-9 E-codes during FY11 for the MHS are listed below along with the descriptions of the ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes.

Descending Quantity of Encounters	ICD-9 E- Code	ICD-9 Description	ICD-10 E- Codes	ICD-10 Description
22,456	E888.9	Unspecified fall	E88.89	Other specified metabolic disorders
11,138	E880.9	Accidental fall on or from other stairs or steps	E88.09	Other disorders of plasma-protein metabolism, not elsewhere classified
7,853	E888.1	Fall resulting in striking against another object	E88.81	Metabolic Syndrome
7,563	E884.9	Other accidental fall from one level to another	E88.49	Other mitochondrial metabolism disorders
4,344	E030	Unspecified activity	E03.0	Congenital hypothyroidism with diffuse goiter
2,724	E884.0	Accidental fall from playground equipment	E88.40	Mitochondrial metabolism disorder, unspecified
2,261	E884.2	Accidental fall from chair	E88.42	MERRF syndrome
891	E880.1	Accidental fall on or from sidewalk curb	E88.01	Alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency
453	E882	Accidental fall from or out of building or other structure	E88.2	Lipomatosis, not elsewhere classified
381	E848	Accidents involving other vehicles, not elsewhere classifiable	E84.8	Cystic fibrosis with other manifestations

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As of 1/20/2012

**619 Days Remaining to CONVERSION**